(c) the names of those banks with number of cheques issued to plantation companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) they have cautioned banks *vide* their circular dated 25th Sept. 1997 to take due care to ensure that any unusually large demand by any account holder for cheque books is looked into carefully to make sure that the cheque leaves are needed for genuine short term business requirements. RBI has further reported that while they have not asked banks to stop issuing cheque books to plantation companies, they have advised banks to ensure that these are meant for genuine short term business requirements only.

Adhoc Appointment

620. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendations have been made for the cadre of Ad hoc appointees on consolidated salary in direct higher responsible positions in various Ministries/ Departments;

(b) if so, whether any such recommendations have been duly examined and are also to be implemented soon; and

(c) if not whether Government propose to frame any guidelines in regard to such cadre so that their salaries may not be equal or near equal to class C & D groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Appointments on consolidated salary are made on need base and the consolidated salary is decided based on job requirements and also keeping in view the status of the candidate/officer expected to discharge the duties. Such appointments are not termed as ad hoc appointments. Further the Pay Commission or any other body has not made any recommendation in this regard. The ad hoc appointments are made only in rare and exceptational circumstances against the posts which cannot be kept vacant until regular candidates become available. Such appointments can be made by the respective Ministry/Department upto one year and beyond that the approval of the Department of Personnel & Training is mandatory.

Bank Branches Opened in Rural Areas

621. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of bank branches opened so far in the rural areas of the country since the nationalisation of the banks;

(b) whether any appraisal of the working of the rural banks have been made to know how far these banks have been able to secure deposits and have kept pace with the changing economic scenario in giving credits to the agriculturists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that 33025 rural branches of Scheduled Commercial banks have been opened after June 30, 1969.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India have advised commercial banks that they should achieve a credit deposit ratio of 60 per cent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an all India basis. Banks have also been advised that while it is not necessary that this ratio should be achieved separately branch-wise, district-wise or region-wise, the banks should nevertheless ensure that wide disparity in the ratios between different States/Region is avoided in order to minimise imbalances in credit deployment. However, the credit absorption capacity of the State/Region which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastructural facilities like irrigation, power, rail, road transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural and industrial production.

Dumping of Foreign Products

622. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding dumping of products by foreign manufacturers into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Details of cases where anti-dumping investigations have been concluded or are under progress are given in the Statements I, II and III